Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, SG, US SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR AND FON MINISTER SECK REVIEW U.S.-SENEGALESE RELATIONS

- 1. DURING RECENT CALL BY AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS SEVERAL SPECIFIC ISSUES WITH SENEGALESE FON MINISTER SECK, CONVERSATION TURNED TO GENERAL REVIEW OF USSENEGALESE RELATIONS.
- 2. AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT 1976 HAD BEEN IMPORTANT YEAR IN HISTORY OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS-- MARKED BY CLOSER CONSULTATION IN DAKAR, WASHINGTON, NEW YORK AND OTHER POINTS WHERE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS MEET. AMONG HIGHLIGHTS HAVE BEEN VISITS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER, GOVERNOR SCRANTON, AID DIRECTOR PARKER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES SCHAUFELE AND REINHARDT-- AS WELL AS SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS. HE SAID WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GOS RECEPTION OF THESE INITIATIVES. ON USG SIDE WE HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL SENEGALESE MISSIONS, INCLUDING RECENTLY THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON-- IN CONTEXT OF A SENE-GAMBIAN INITIATIVE. WE HAVE CONTINUED AND DEEPENED EXCHANGES WITH AMBASSADOR COULBARY IN WASHINGTON, MEDOUNE FALL IN NEW YORK AND OTHER SENEGALESE REPRESENTATIVES INGENEVA, PARIS, ROME AND ELSEWHERE. WE BELIEVE THESE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THEM WITH RENEWED VIGOR IN NEW YEAR. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. MINISTER AGREED THAT BILATERAL COOPERATIONAND CONSULTATION HAD GREATLY INCREASED DURING 1976 AND PLEDGED HIS FULL COOPERATION FOR A CONTINUATION IN THE SAME SPIRIT. HE FELT THAT UNDER NEW PRESIDENT, US WOULD BUILD ON EXCELLENT INTITIATIVES IT HAD TAKEN IN AFRICA WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LEADERSHIP. NO ONE COULD DENY THAT SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS MUCH MORE PROMISING BECUASE OF US EFFORTS. SECK SAID HE WAS EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON AND THAT HE FOUND HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SCHAUFELE, SEELYE, AND BOLEN OF STATE AND WITH SENIOR AID OFFICIALS MOST ENCOURAGING.

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